

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 652

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Charles R. Blackburn III on the occasion of his 25th anniversary of meritorious service as executive director of the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Charles R. Blackburn III is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as executive director of the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations, Mr. Blackburn has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 1982, Charles R. Blackburn III reported to work for his first day with the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations, beginning a lifelong career assisting those with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Charles Blackburn has devoted 25 years of his career as a mental health advocate and spokesperson to the successful recovery of Tennesseans suffering with mental illness, substance abuse, and other addictive disorders; and

WHEREAS, in his capacity as Executive Director of the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO), Mr. Blackburn has been widely recognized for his local, statewide, and national leadership in the areas of behavioral health planning and policy development; and

WHEREAS, this devoted professional has been recognized among trade association executives as a visionary leader, including designation by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) as a Certified Association Executive, and in 1996, he was

named the Tennessee Society of Association Executives (TSAE) Association's Executive of the Year; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Charles Blackburn has also been presented with the TAMHO President's Award, the Mental Health Professional of the Year Award by the Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee, and the Public Policy Award by the National Council for Community Behavioral Health in recognition of his dedicated service and commitment to the field of behavioral health care; and

WHEREAS, realizing that citizenship entails many responsibilities as well as privileges, Mr. Blackburn has been an active community leader, having served on various boards of directors and committees of a number of behavioral health-related state councils, commissions, and not-for-profit service organizations, including The Mental Health Planning Council, TennCare Partners Roundtable, Tennessee Coalition for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Mental Health Association of Nashville, Mental Health Association of Tennessee, Tennessee Voices for Children, and the Community Rehabilitation Agencies of Tennessee (CMRA); and

WHEREAS, he is a decorated veteran of the Viet Nam War, having served his troops and country with valor and honor; and

WHEREAS, his many personal and professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Blackburn is fortunate to share love and companionship with his wife, Glenda, his twin daughters, Erinn and Amanda, and their spouses, and his five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Charles Blackburn bleeds Orange and possesses an unparalleled and astonishing wealth of statistical facts and play-by-play color recall of Tennessee Volunteer gridiron history; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting to pay tribute to this extraordinary man who has been a caring friend, a tireless advocate, a respected authority, a wealth of historical knowledge, and a trusted advisor to local, state, and national leaders; and

WHEREAS, Charles R. Blackburn III is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Charles R. Blackburn III for his honorable and astute service to Tennessee's mental health community and clients as he celebrates his 25th anniversary as executive director of the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations; salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction; and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.